

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /047 W

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P 021655Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4072

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

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DOD FOR USAF SECRETARY MCLUCAS

DEPT FOR EUR/WE - KATHERINE SHIRLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PINT, NL

SUBJ: VISIT BY KEY MEMBERS OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT'S DEFENSE COMMITTEE

REF: THE HAGUE 3487

1. GENERAL VAN ELSEN, CHAIRMAN OF DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF SECOND CHAMBER OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT, INFORMED CHARGE THAT HE WILL VISIT US FOR SEVERAL DAYS STARTING AUGUST 4 OR 5, ACCOMPANIED BY LIBERAL PARTY DEPUTY PLOEG, A MEMBER OF VAN ELSEN'S COMMITTEE. UNCHARACTERISTICALLY VAN ELSEN WAS NON-COMMITTAL ON PURPOSE, AGENDA AND SPONSORSHIP OF HIS VISIT AND DID NOT ASK EMBASSY FOR ANY ASSISTANCE OR COORDINATION. HE DID NOT KNOW AT WHICH HOTEL HE WOULD BE STAYING IN WASHINGTON BUT SAID THAT HE MIGHT TELEPHONE SECRETARY MCLUCAS' OFFICE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK (AUG 5 OR 6) IN CASE THE SECRETARY COULD SEE THEM TO TALK FURTHER ABOUT THE REPLACEMENT FIGHTER. VAN ELSEN WAS GIVEN MRS. SKIRLEY'S DEPARTMENT EXTENSION IN CASE HE NEEDED STATE DEPARTMENT CONTACT.

2. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT VAN ELSEN'S VISIT IS BEING SPONSORED BY ONE OR MORE AMERICAN COMPANIES WHICH ARE ACTIVELY

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INVOLVED IN TRYING TO SELL THEIR PRODUCT TO THE GON. THIS

MIGHT INCLUDE NORTHROP AND GENERAL DYNAMICS, AS WELL PERHAPS AS THE MANUFACTURER OF THE LANCE MISSLE IN WISCONSIN , WHOSE PLANT VAN ELSSEN REPORTEDLY WISHES TO VISIT ON THIS TRIP. REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS VISIT IT IS DEFINITELY IN THE INTEREST OF THE USG TO ASSIST VAN ELSSEN AND PLOEG BY WAY OF CONTACTS, BRIEFINGS AND ANYTHING ELSE WHICH WILL FACILITATE THEIR INTEREST IN THE NETHERLANDS PURCHASING AMERICAN HARDWARE. TANGUY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA03817
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740211-0130
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740877/aaaacnvn.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: THE HAGUE 3487
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY KEY MEMBERS OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT'S DEFENSE COMMITTEE
TAGS: OTRA, PINT, NL
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005